

Message Text

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ORIGIN ERDA-07

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TAGS: TECH

SUBJECT: VISIT OF DR. SHMUEL OFRI, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF
SCIENTIST, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

REF: TEL AVIV 6539, 7114, STATE 253748

1. DR. SHMUEL OFRI, COMPLETED TWO WEEK VISIT TO ERDA AND
PRIVATE ENERGY RESEARCH FACILITIES AND HELD WRAP-UP
MEETING WITH ERDA ON NOVEMBER 22, 1976. FOLLOWING IS
SUMMARY OF THOSE DISCUSSIONS.

2. SOLAR ENERGY: SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF TRAVEL
FUNDS, ERDA PLANS TO SEND TEAM OF FOUR TO SIX INDIVIDUALS
(ERDA STAFF AND ERDA CONTRACTORS) TO ISRAEL FOR ONE WEEK
IN MAY TO HOLD WORKSHOP ON SOLAR ENERGY. AVAILABILITY OF
TRAVEL FUNDS WILL NOT BE KNOWN UNTIL MARCH 1977. TENTA-
TIVE AGENDA CALLS FOR THREE DAYS OF MEETINGS WITH MORNINGS
DEVOTED TO PAPERS BY EACH SIDE ON (1) PROCESS HEAT, (2)
SOLAR HEATING AND COOLING, AND (3) SOLAR GENERATION OF
ELECTRICITY, AND AFTERNOONS TO GENERAL DISCUSSIONS OF
THESE TOPICS. TWO DAYS ALLOCATED TO SITE VISITS, INCLUDING
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SOLAR POND PROJECT. SIXTH DAY DEVOTED TO SUMMARY MEETING

WHICH WOULD DEFINE FUTURE COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES.

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3. IT WAS AGREED THAT ERDA PARTICIPATION IN WORKSHOP WOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS COMMITMENT TO ENTER INTO FURTHER COOPERATION BUT RATHER TO HELP DETERMINE IF FUTURE COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES ARE IN INTERESTS OF BOTH SIDES. A MEMORANDUM MAY BE PREPARED AT THE CONCLUSION OF FINAL MEETING SETTING FORTH RECOMMENDATIONS EACH TEAM WILL MAKE TO THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS.

4. ERDA WILL ADVISE OFRI IN MARCH WHETHER TRAVEL FUNDS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PERMIT TEAM TO MAKE VISIT, AND IF SO, SET TENTATIVE DATES AND SEEK EMBASSY'S CONCURRENCE.

5. GEOTHERMAL ENERGY: GOI SEEKING ADVICE IN EVALUATING THEIR GEOTHERMAL POTENTIAL AND DETERMINING WHAT TECHNOLOGIES WOULD BE REQUIRED TO UTILIZE THE RESOURCE. ERDA NOTED THAT A U.S. GEOLOGY EXPERT PRESENTLY ON A YEAR'S ASSIGNMENT IN ITALY MIGHT BE SENT TO ISRAEL FOR A WEEK TO EVALUATE GEOTHERMAL POTENTIAL. THIS COULD BE FOLLOWED BY VISIT OF A TECHNOLOGY EXPERT AT A LATER DATE TO ADVISE ON ALTERNATIVES TO DEVELOP RESOURCE. SUCH ADVICE WOULD BE INDIVIDUAL EXPERT'S OPINION, NOT OFFICIAL RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ERDA.

6. OFRI SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS THIS APPROACH WITH THE CHIEF SCIENTIST AND ADVISE ERDA LATER HOW THEY WISHED TO PROCEED.

7. OIL SHALE: OFRI ARRIVED IN U.S. WITH VIEW THAT DIRECT COMBUSTION WAS BEST WAY OF UTILIZING ISRAEL'S OIL SHALE. AT ERDA LARAMIE ENERGY RESEARCH CENTER, HE WAS ADVISED THAT IN SITU OR SURFACE RETORTING COULD BE BETTER APPROACH. ERDA OFFERED TO RECEIVE ABOUT 10 TON SAMPLE OF ISRAELI OIL SHALE FOR EXPERIMENTAL BURNING IN FLUIDIZED BED TEST FACILITY TO HELP RESOLVE ISSUE. ERDA ALSO WELCOMED ISRAELI OBSERVER DURING TEST.

8. OFRI WILL DISCUSS PROPOSED EXPERIMENT WITH CHIEF
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SCIENTIST AND ADVISE ERDA IF THEY WISH TO UNDERTAKE IT. REQUEST EMBASSY INFORM OFRI THAT ERDA WILL ANALYZE ISRAELI OIL SHALE SAMPLE PROVIDED THAT U.S. RECEIVES ASSURANCE THAT SAMPLE WAS OBTAINED FROM TERRITORY WITHIN THE PRE-JUNE 6, 1967 BORDERS OF ISRAEL.

9. OFRI'S CONTACT IN ERDA IS DR. JACK VANDERRYN. COMMUNICATIONS, HOWEVER, SHOULD BE KEPT IN STATE

DEPARTMENT'S CHANNELS. ROBINSON

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